United Nations A/61/690

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 January 2007
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-first session
Agenda items 67 (a) and 80

Promotion and protection of human rights: implementation of human rights instruments

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Letter dated 5 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a communique from my Government condemning the execution of the former President of Iraq, Saddam Hussein. The communiqué also reiterates my Government's call for an end to the foreign occupation and calls on the United Nations to take steps to restore sovereignty to this sister Arab nation and investigate the countless human rights abuses that have been committed in the name of a hypocritical fight against terrorism (see annex).

I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 67 (a) and 80.

(*Signed*) Francisco Javier **Arias Cárdenas**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-20441 (E) 100107 100107

Annex to the letter dated 5 January 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela addressed to the Secretary-General

The Venezuelan Government condemns the execution of the former President of Iraq, Saddam Hussein

3 January 2007

The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela categorically condemns the execution of the former President of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, and has no hesitation in calling this shameful act a political crime which resulted from the illegitimate foreign occupation of that sister Arab nation.

The assassination of Saddam Hussein was the culmination of a spurious trial carried out by courts imposed by the invading troops, led by the army of the United States of America. The overthrown, and later executed, former Iraqi Head of State was denied the right to due process; his lawyers suffered persecution, threats and attacks; and the outrages committed against him exposed the chicanery that was orchestrated with the ultimate aim of legalizing this crime, which is currently shaking the dignity of the peoples of the world, particularly that of the Arab people.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela rejects the imposition of the death penalty as a matter of principle, as reflected in its Constitution, but also refuses to accept the idea that one or more Powers, with the support of other countries, may assume the right to usurp the role that should be played by the United Nations and impose decisions aimed at taking away the liberty, and then the life, of a Head of State deposed by invading troops.

The former President of Iraq was accused of causing the deaths of some 150 people, and for that he was sent to the gallows. But the military occupation of Iraqi territory, ordered by the President of the United States, George W. Bush, has caused the deaths of tens of thousands of that country's citizens and over 3,000 American soldiers, and has left some 20,000 war wounded.

Those responsible for these thousands of killings and these serious human rights abuses will one day have to answer to international justice.

The Venezuelan Government reiterates its demand for an end to the illegal occupation of Iraq and calls on the United Nations to take steps to restore sovereignty to that nation and investigate the countless human rights abuses that have been committed in the name of a hypocritical fight against terrorism.